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A circular black ink stamp. The outer ring contains the text "OIP" at the top and "PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE" at the bottom. The center of the stamp contains the date "JAN 23 2002".

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JAN 28 2002

Examiner: N.Y.A.

Group Art Unit: 2672

Technology Center 2100

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January 22, 2002

JAN 25 2002

Technology Center 2600

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents identified on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of those documents are also enclosed, together with a copy of the United Kingdom Patent Office Search Reports citing them. Abstracts of the non-English documents are also attached, as well as a computer-generated English translation of JP 09-91108.

It is respectfully requested that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

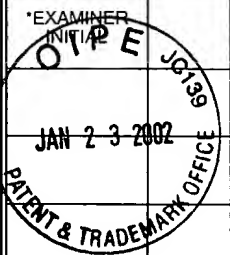
Respectfully submitted,


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FORM PTO 1449 (modified) U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S) (Use several sheets if necessary)		ATTY DOCKET NO. 01263.001592.		APPLICATION NO. 09/817,342		
		APPLICANT UWE HELMUT JOST ET AL.				
		FILING DATE March 27, 2001		GROUP 2672		
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
*EXAMINER INITIALS 	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	5,561,796	10/01/96	Sakamoto et al.	395	600	
	5,937,422	08/10/99	Nelson et al.	707	531	
	6,208,985 B1	03/27/01	Krechel	707	3	
	6,236,990 B1	05/22/01	Geller et al.	707	5	
						RECEIVED JAN 25 2002
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
	DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT
	08-272660	10/18/96	JAPAN			Abstract with original Japanese
	09-91108	04/04/97	JAPAN			Translation & Abstr. w/orig. Japanese
	2001-101228	04/13/01	JAPAN			Abstract with original Japanese
	05-2857	01/08/93	JAPAN			Abstract with original Japanese
						RECEIVED JAN 28 2002 Technology Center 2100
OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)						
EXAMINER			DATE CONSIDERED			

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.